

Agenda for VA HSR&D Data Interest Group
HSR&D National Meeting, February 21, 2007

Theme: VA Researchers' Need for a Complete Picture of Patient Care

Goals: To generate research policy questions;
discuss practical research problems of VA researchers;
share solutions and insights into use of datasets.

Background

- Vast majority of VA patients have other options for health care services.¹
- VA researchers should obtain non-VA utilization when studying:
 - Quality of care, e.g., to find preventable hospitalizations, emergency care, follow-up care²⁻³
 - Risk adjustment⁴
 - Cost implications
 - Care coordination

Types of studies requiring a complete picture of patient care

- Randomized, controlled trials - Discussion led by Ann Hendricks
 - Claims
 - Self-reports, surveys
- Observational studies - Discussion led by Steven Pizer

More about data

- Workgroups on Medicare utilization data on Friday – VIREC and Matt Maciejewski
- Medicaid data
- Need for descriptions of non-VA benefits
- Survey datasets
 - MCBS – Handout from Yvonne Jonk
 - Summary handout from Austin Frakt

Materials from the group meeting will be available at: www.hcfe.research.va.gov

References

1. Shen Y, AM Hendricks, S Zhang, L Kazis, VHA Enrollees' Health Care Coverage and Use of Care, Medical Care Research and Review, 60(2): 253-267, 2003
2. Fleming, C., et al., *Studying Outcomes and Hospital Utilization in the Elderly: The Advantages of a Merged Data Base for Medicare and Veterans Affairs Hospitals*. Med Care, 1992. 30(5):p.377-391.
3. Fisher, E.S., *Unmanaged Care: Dual Utilization of the Veterans Affairs and Medicare Health Systems*, 1994. VA Outcomes Group: White River Junction, VT.
4. Rosen AK, Gardner JA, Montez M, Loveland S, Hendricks A. Dual system use: are there implications for risk adjustment and quality assessment? American Journal of Medical Quality. July/August 2005; 20(4):182-194.

